

Community Alternatives to Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities Demonstration Grant Abstract

Georgia

Title: Community-based Alternatives for Youth Project (CBAY)

Project Goal: The Georgia Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases' (DMHDDAD) overall goal is to serve youth with serious emotional disturbance (SED) as close to their natural home settings as possible. Reducing length of stay in out-of-home placements and increasing the number of youth receiving community-based services by building capacity is one of the Division's primary objectives

How grant will be used to develop or improve community-integrated services: In implementing its proposed CBAY project, Georgia will utilize a systems approach that targets youth served by multiple agencies, striving to coordinate, blend, and braid programs and funding to create a comprehensive behavioral system that ensures youth are placed in and remain in intensive residential treatment only when necessary and that a coordinated system of services at the community level is available. The state's entire system relative to youngsters is being transformed to ensure that evidence-based practices, as well as an array of quality services, are available, integrated, and supported throughout Georgia. CBAY will help support this transformation.

Georgia is in the process of amending the State Medicaid Plan to include Psychiatric Residential Treatment Centers (PRTFs). There are currently six facilities that qualify as PRTFs. In the current system, these are considered as Level 6 providers in the Level of Care system. Children and youth placed in these facilities are assessed as having Level 6 treatment needs. For the demonstration project, only those children/youth assessed as having Level 6 needs will be included. Plans of care will be individualized to meet the needs of the youth and family. Services will be provided by qualified providers as assessed through an application process conducted by the DMHDDAD and the Department of Community Health. There will be program oversight and monitoring at both the regional and state levels to insure the health and welfare of participants. Services will be provided through a System of Care approach to insure coordination across the child-serving agencies using a Wraparound approach to service delivery in the family home.

Project Outcomes and Products: Implementation of Georgia's CBAY project will allow the state to ensure children and adolescents with SED receive appropriate level of service, based on medical necessity at the appropriate intensity, at the appropriate time, in the appropriate place.